

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 1, 3-5, 7, 8, 10, 11, 15-17, 20-22, 24, 26-30, 37 and 38, matter to be added is shown in underline and matter to be deleted is shown in strikethrough as follows:

1. (currently amended) A pallet comprising:

a first portion having an outer surface and an inner surface at least a portion of which is distant from the outer surface; and

a second portion having an outer surface and an inner surface at least a portion of which is distant from the outer surface, wherein the inner surface of the first portion and the inner surface of the second portion respectively provide first and second complementary shaped bonding surfaces, wherein the first and second bonding surfaces respectively comprise first and second areas each comprising a plurality of cyclical, planar undulations, wherein the planar undulations respectively rise and fall end-to-end as a continuous front over the span of each undulation parallel to first and second axes of the first and second bonding surfaces, and wherein the undulations of the second portion are displaced to interdigitate and conformally mate with the undulations of the first portion, whereby the first and second portions conformally laminate together over the entire first and second areas without any spaces, gaps or flats between adjoining undulations of the mating first and second bonding surfaces ~~comprise complementary shaped surfaces and wherein the inner surface of the first portion interdigitates with and conformally mates with the inner surface of the second portion without any spaces in the regions of interdigitation.~~

Claim 2. Cancelled

3. (currently amended) The pallet of claim 1 wherein the undulations of the first and second areas comprise sinusoidal waves ~~inner surfaces of the first and second portions each comprise a series of undulations.~~

4. (currently amended) The pallet of claim 1 wherein said first and second axes lie parallel to one another and wherein each of the plurality of undulations of the first and second bonding surfaces exhibit a uniform periodicity ~~inner surfaces of the first and second portions each comprise a succession of wave-shaped surfaces.~~

5. (currently amended) The pallet of claim 1 wherein the outer surface of the second portion comprises at least two channels recessed toward the first portion ~~that are closer to the first portion than the remainder of the second portion.~~

6. (original) The pallet of claim 1 wherein the outer surface of the second portion comprises at least two feet.

7. (currently amended) The pallet of claim 3 wherein the outer surface of the second portion comprises a plurality of cyclical undulations displaced from a plurality of adjoining feet ~~series of undulations and includes a plurality of feet.~~

8. (currently amended) The pallet of claim 1 wherein said first and second axes lie parallel to one another, wherein the plurality of cyclical planar undulations of the first and second areas respectively exhibit sinusoidal shapes that span one dimension of said first and second areas and wherein the sinusoidal-shaped undulations further include a series of sinusoidal ridges and grooves that extend parallel to third and fourth axes that respectively bisect said first and second axes ~~7 wherein the undulations of the inner surfaces of said first and second portions span one dimension of said first and second portions and wherein each undulation includes a series of ridges and grooves that~~

~~conformally mate with a series of ridges and grooves of a complementary undulation at the other of said first and second portions.~~

9. (previously presented) The pallet of claim 1 wherein the outer surface of the first portion comprises a generally flat plane.

10. (currently amended) The pallet of claim 1 wherein one of said first and second bonding surfaces is molded directly over the other of said first and second bonding surfaces ~~the inner surface of one of said first and second portions is conformally molded to overly and bond to the inner surface of the other of said first and second portions in the regions of interdigitation.~~

11. (currently amended) A blow molded pallet comprising:

a) a pallet body including:

i) a first portion having an outer surface and an inner surface and wherein the inner surface has a first area ~~portion~~ that is displaced from the outer surface that exhibits a first series of sinusoidal undulations that span a first axis of the first area ~~continuous undulations~~; and

ii) a second portion having an outer surface and an inner surface and wherein the inner surface has a second area ~~portion~~ that is displaced from the outer surface that exhibits a second series of sinusoidal undulations that span a second axis of the second area that lies parallel to the first axis ~~continuous undulations~~, and

b) wherein the first series of undulations are positioned to interdigitate with and conformally laminate with ~~overly~~ the second series of undulations over the first and second areas without any spaces, gaps or flats in the regions of interdigitation.

12. (previously presented) A pallet of claim 11 wherein the inner surface of the first portion and the inner surface of the second portion are connected by molding one to the other such that the first and second series of undulations bond to one another during molding.

Claims 13 - 14. Cancelled

15. (currently amended) A blow-molded pallet comprising:

a) a first portion having an outer surface and an inner surface and wherein said inner surface provides a region containing a first set of undulating arcuate channels and protrusions ~~has a set of first channels and protrusions;~~

b) a second portion having an outer surface and an inner surface and wherein said inner surface provides a region containing a second set of undulating arcuate channels and protrusions ~~has a set of second channels and protrusions;~~ and

c) wherein the first and second sets of undulating channels and protrusions comprise complementary shaped surfaces that mount in interdigitated relation to the other such that the first and second sets of channels and protrusions conformally laminate together without any spaces, gaps or flats ~~overly each other without any spaces in the regions of interdigitation.~~

16. (currently amended) The pallet of claim 15 wherein one of the first and second sets of undulating channels and protrusions is molded using the other of the first and second sets of undulating channels and protrusions as a molding surface.

17. (currently amended) The pallet of claim 15 wherein the depth of at least on channel of said first set is different than the other channels of the first set and wherein the amplitude of at least one protrusion of said second set is different than the other

protrusions of the second set and wherein the channel and protrusion of differing depth and amplitude mate together at least one of said first and second portions contains cavities and wherein the other of said first and second portions contains an extending member which is inserted into the cavity during molding to lock one of said first and second portions together.

18. (previously presented) The pallet of claim 15 wherein one of said first and second portions contains a locking member, and wherein the other of said first and second portions contains a receiving member so that the locking member and receiving member communicate to lock said first and second portions together.

19. (previously presented) The pallet of claim 15 wherein one of said first and second portions includes a plurality of tack off points where the first and second portions connect to one another.

20. (currently amended) The pallet of claim 15 wherein the first ~~upper~~ portion includes at least one leg; and wherein the second ~~bottom~~ portion includes one foot having a hollow portion for receiving a foot of the upper portion.

21. (currently amended) The pallet of claim 15 further comprising a first portion first end and a first portion second end included with the first portion; and a second portion first end and a second portion second end included with the second portion, wherein at least the first portion first end mates with the second portion first end ~~an upper portion first end and an upper portion second end included with the upper portion; and a bottom portion first end and a bottom portion second end included with the bottom portion, wherein at least the upper first end mates with the bottom first end.~~

22. (currently amended) The pallet of claim 15 wherein one of said first and second portions ~~upper and bottom portions~~ is molded to the other such that the interlocked first and second sets of protrusions thermally bond to one another.

Claim 23 cancelled.

24. (currently amended) The pallet of claim 1 wherein the inner surfaces of the first and second portions at said first and second areas each comprise a plurality of undulating corrugations and wherein the plurality of corrugations rise and fall to uniform amplitudes and depths over the span of each corrugation ~~each comprise undulating corrugated surfaces in the regions of interdigitation.~~

25. (previously presented) The pallet of claim 1 wherein the outer surface of the second portion comprises a plurality of feet and a plurality of intervening channels whereby the pallet can be accessed from a plurality of sides for raising and lowering.

26. (currently amended) A blow molded pallet comprising:

a first portion having a generally flat outer surface and an inner surface including a plurality of parallel first corrugations that span an area of said first portion parallel to a first axis ~~undulations that span at least one dimension of said first portion;~~

a second portion having an outer surface including a plurality of depending feet and intervening channels and an inner surface including a plurality of parallel second corrugations that span an area of said second portion parallel to said first axis ~~undulations that span at least one dimension of said second portion; and~~

c) wherein the first and second corrugations interdigitate and conformally mate with each other without any spaces, gaps or flats ~~undulations of the first and second~~

~~portions mount in interdigitated relation to conformally overlie each other without any spaces in the regions of interdigitation.~~

27. (currently amended) The pallet of claim 26 wherein the outer surface of the second portion includes a region containing a plurality of undulating ridges and grooves ~~plurality of undulating ridges and valleys.~~

28. (currently amended) The pallet of claim 26 wherein the first and second corrugations respectively define first and second wave fronts that lie parallel to a first axis and wherein said first and second corrugations include a plurality of cyclical, arcuate ridges and valleys that lie parallel to a second axis that bisects the first axis ~~undulations at the inner surfaces of the first and second portions respectively define first and second wave fronts relative to a first axis and wherein undulations at each of said first and second wave fronts include a plurality of undulating ridges and valleys of third and fourth wave fronts that respectively bisect the first.~~

29. (currently amended) The pallet of claim 28 wherein said first and second axes extend orthogonal to each other ~~the third and fourth wave fronts run orthogonal to said first axis.~~

30. (currently amended) The pallet of claim 26 ~~+~~ wherein the inner surface of one of said first and second portions is molded over the inner surface of the other of the first and second portions.

Claims 31 – 36. Cancelled

37. (currently amended) The pallet of claim 3 wherein said first and second axes lie parallel to one another, wherein the undulations at the first and second bonding surfaces respectively define first and second sets of sinusoidal waves and wherein the

undulations of each of said first and second sets of waves include a plurality of sinusoidal ridges and valleys that extend parallel to third and fourth axes that respectively bisect the first and second axes ~~the undulations at the inner surfaces of the first and second portions respectively define first and second wave fronts relative to a first axis and wherein undulations at each of said first and second wave fronts include a plurality of undulating ridges and valleys of third and fourth wave fronts that respectively bisect the first axis.~~

38. (currently amended) The pallet of claim 37 wherein the third and fourth axes ~~run orthogonal to said first and second axes~~ ~~wave fronts run orthogonal to said first axis.~~